

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

PAUL I. PEREZ UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street Suite 3200 Tampa, Florida 33602 813/274-6000 813/274-6300 (Fax) 300 North Hogan Street, Suite 700 Post Office Box 600 Jacksonville, Florida 32201 904/301-6300 904/301-6310 (Fax) 80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201 Orlando, Florida 32801 407/648-7500 407/648-7643 (Fax) 2110 First Street, Suite 3-137 Fort Myers, Florida 33901 239/461-2200 239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

October 24, 2003

TITUSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR BANK ROBBERY

U.S. District Court Judge Gregory A. Presnell today sentenced a Titusville man to a term of 220 months' imprisonment in connection with the armed robbery of a Titusville First Union Bank on June 20, 2002. **DAMMRON D. MITCHELL**, 26, previously had entered a plea of guilty to the charges of conspiracy to commit bank robbery, bank robbery and use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. The sentence also calls for Mitchell to serve a five-year period of supervised release, perform 100 hours of community service, pay a special assessment of \$300, and make full restitution.

According to the facts adopted by the Court at sentencing, Mitchell received information in advance of the robbery from a bank teller, Abbey Latasha Graham, 22 (Titusville) which included details of the bank's security procedures, currency deliveries and a drawing of the interior of the branch office that displayed the location of the bank's vault and video surveillance recording system. With the assistance of three other individuals - Harvey Johnson, 25 (Titusville); Donald Johnson, 19 (Titusville); and, Troy Henley, 24 (Titusville) - Mitchell entered the bank, acted as a lookout, removed the surveillance system's videocassette recorder and fled with more than \$43,000.

Troy Henley previously was sentenced to 48 months in federal prison. Harvey Johnson received 270 months, Donald Johnson received 260 months, and Abbey Graham received 60 months for their roles in the bank robbery.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Titusville Police Department. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). United States Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.